## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 – 13 (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a tripeptide, including a salt thereof, of the formula (I)

Ac-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (I)

or

Boc-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (IX),

comprising the following consecutive steps for the preparation of (I):

(a) Reacting Boc-D-4ClPhe-OH with HONSu to form

Boc-D-4ClPhe-OSu (VII);

(b) Reacting Boc-D-4ClPhe-OSu (VII) with H-D-3Pal-OH to form

Boc-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (VIII);

(c) Reacting Boc-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (VIII) with Boc-D-2Nal-OSu prepared by reacting Boc-D-2Nal-OH with HONSu to form Boc-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (IX);

(d) Reacting Boc-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (IX) with acetic acid to form Ac-D-2Nal-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (I);

or the consecutive steps (a) through (c) for the preparation of (IX).

15. (Currently amended) A process for preparing an LHRH antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, comprising coupling a tripeptide Ac-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (I) prepared according to the process of claim 14 with a heptapeptide (IV) of the general formula

$P^1$-Ser($P^2$)-AA1-AA2-Leu-Lys(iPr,$P^4$)-Pro-D—$AlaNH_2$ (IV),

wherein $P^1$ is selected from H or amino protecting group, $P^2$ is H or OH-protecting group, $P^4$ is H or an amino protecting group ~~such as Boc~~, AA1 is natural or synthetic amino acid and AA2 is natural or synthetic amino acid or zero.

16. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (IV) is a heptapeptide of the general formula

$P^1$-Ser($P^2$)-NMeTyr($P^3$)-D-Lys(Nic)-Leu-Lys(iPr,$P^4$)-Pro-D—$AlaNH_2$ (V)

wherein $P^3$ is H or –OH protecting group.

17. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (IV) is a heptapeptide of the general formula

$P^1$-Ser(P2)-NMeTyr($P^3$)-D-Asn-Leu-Lys(iPr,$P^4$)-Pro-D—$AlaNH_2$ (Va).

wherein $P^3$ is H or –OH protecting group.

18. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (V) is a heptapeptide of the formula

H-Ser(tBu)-NMeTyr-D-Lys(Nic)-Leu-Lys(iPr,Boc)-Pro-D—$AlaNH_2$ (VI).

19. (Previously presented) The process of claim 17, wherein the heptapeptide of the formula (IV) is a heptapeptide of the formula

H-Ser(tBu)-NMeTyr-D-Asn-Leu-Lys(iPr,Boc)-Pro-D—AlaNH$_2$ (VIa).

20. (Previously presented) A process for preparing an LHRH antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, comprising coupling the tripeptide Boc-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (IX) prepared by the process of claim 14 with a heptapeptide (IV) of the general formula

P$^1$-Ser(P$^2$)-AA1-AA2-Leu-Lys(iPr,P$^4$)-Pro-D—AlaNH$_2$ (IV),

wherein P$^1$ is selected from H or amino protecting group, P$^2$ is H or OH-protecting group, P$^4$ is H or amino protecting group, AA1 is a natural or synthetic amino acid and AA2 is a natural or synthetic amino acid or zero.

21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 20, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (IV) is a heptapeptide (V) of the general formula

P$^1$-Ser(P$^2$)-NMeTyr(P$^3$)-D-Lys(Nic)-Leu-Lys(iPr,P$^4$)-Pro-D—AlaNH$_2$ (V)

wherein P$^3$ is H or OH-protecting group.

22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 21, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (V) is the heptapeptide

H-Ser(tBu)-NMeTyr-D-Lys(Nic)-Leu-Lys(iPr,Boc)-Pro-D—AlaNH$_2$ (VI).

23. (Currently amended) The process of claim 20, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (IV) is a heptapeptide of the general formula

P1-Ser(P2)-NMeTyr(P3)-D-Asn-Leu-Lys(iPr,P4)-Pro-D—AlaNH$_2$ (Va),

followed by substituting the Boc group by an acyl group.

24. (Previously presented) The process of claim 23, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (IV) is the heptapeptide

H-Ser(tBu)-NMeTyr-D-Asn-Leu-Lys(iPr,Boc)-Pro-D—AlaNH$_2$ (VIa),

followed by substituting the N-terminal Boc group by an acyl group.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The tripeptide Boc-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (IX) or a salt thereof prepared by the process of claim 14.

27. (Previously presented) The process of claim 24, wherein the substituting of the N-terminal Boc group comprises substituting the Boc with an acetyl group.

28. (Previously presented) The process of claim 23, wherein the substituting of the N-terminal Boc group comprises substituting the Boc with an acetyl group.

29. (Previously presented) The process of claim 20, wherein P4 is Boc.

30. (Previously presented) The process of claim 15, wherein P4 is Boc.